

7 be seated on said base in a closed position enclosing said top surface, with said trunnions
8 received in said notches via said second openings, said notches and said second openings being
9 defined by surfaces that coact with said trunnions to alternatively accommodate (i) unimpeded
10 vertical movement of said cover between said closed position and a raised position removed
11 from said base, and (ii) limited rotation of said cover about said trunnions between said closed
12 position and an inclined open position providing access to said tube-receiving openings.

1 28. (Amended) The tube rack of claim 26 wherein said tube receiving openings
2 are provided internally with mutually spaced support pads positioned to vertically support tubes
3 received in said openings.

REMARKS

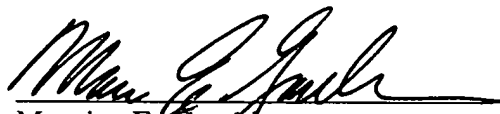
In its now amended form, it is believed that claim 28 is free of the 112 issues raised by the examiner.

Claim 26 has been amended both to deal with the examiner's 112 rejection, and to more precisely define the unimpeded vertical movement of the cover as being between a closed position seated on the base and a raised position **removed** from the base.

None of the references of record in this case, either when viewed singly or in combination, discloses or suggests both unimpeded separation and limited rotation of a cover with respect to a base. Accordingly, it is now believed that this application is in condition for allowance.

Attached hereto is a marked up version of the changes made to the claims by this amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made".

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Maurice E. Gauthier", written over a horizontal line.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

26. (Amended) A tube rack comprising:

a base having a top surface and oppositely facing side walls, said top surface being subdivided into an array of tube-receiving first openings, each of said side walls having a trunnion protruding outwardly therefrom, with said trunnions being aligned coaxially; and

a cover having oppositely facing side walls[,] with notches in said side walls having downwardly facing second openings, said cover being configured and dimensioned to be seated on said base in a closed position enclosing said top surface, with said trunnions received in said notches via said second openings, said notches and said second openings being defined by surfaces that coact with said trunnions to alternatively accommodate (i) unimpeded vertical movement of said cover [into and out of] between said closed position and a raised position removed from said base, and (ii) limited rotation of said cover about said trunnions between said closed position and an inclined open position providing access to said tube-receiving openings.

28. (Amended) The tube rack of claim 26 wherein said tube receiving openings [communicate with vertically disposed wells having open bottoms, and wherein said wells] are provided internally with mutually spaced support pads positioned to vertically support tubes received in [said wells via] said openings.

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